

REMARKS

The Office action of July 8, 2003, has been carefully considered.

Objection has been raised to the specification on the basis that the term "an first" is improper. The appropriate paragraph has now been corrected.

Claims 24 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Mozawa et al.

Claims 24 and 26 have now been amended to clarify the invention, reciting that the panel has at least an outer chamfered portion along its periphery, as shown in the figures. Moreover, Claim 26 has been amended to recite that the cover tape is disposed on an outer surface of the panel.

With regard to Mozawa et al, the Office action alleges that this reference "shows a panel unit 1 comprising glass, a molding (5) formed along the peripheral edge of the panel having an extension that partially covers the surface of the panel and an end surface of the extension (the end surface to the right of part 3c) being inclined at an obtuse angle relative to the panel surface, a cover tape (9) disposed between the extension of the molding and the panel surface, the tape disposed on the panel substantially adjacent to the molding (5)."

Applicants disagree with this interpretation. As explained by Mozawa et al at column 5, lines 2 through 9, element 9 is not a cover tape, but is an opaque printed layer on the rear peripheral surface of the panel which serves to cover an adhesive material layer and an associated dam rubber between the window plate 2 and the automobile body panel such that they are not visible from the outside. This opaque printed layer corresponds to the *frit layer* 6 which may be coated on surface 2b of the windshield 2, as shown in Figure 1

of the present application. As shown in Figure 2 of Mozawa et al, the printed layer (frit layer) 9 has a width greater than that of the molding 5 and covers a substantial portion of the periphery of the window plate rear surface. In addition, it appears that the printed layer 9 of Mozawa et al must be bonded to the window plate rear surface.

Mozawa et al does not disclose or suggest a cover tape as is presently claimed, the construction, arrangement and functions of member 9 taught by Mozawa et al being different from those of the presently claimed tape.

Because Mozawa et al does not disclose or suggest a tape as is presently claimed, and further does not disclose or suggest a chamfered edge for the panel, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Endoh et al.

The Office action alleges that Endoh et al in Figure 3 "shows a panel unit comprising a panel (14), an in situ formed molding (16) formed along the peripheral edge of the panel (the molding is formed after the die comes together with the tape and thus adjacent to the tape), a cover tape (42) disposed on the panel surface substantially adjacent to the formed molding."

The element 42 which is alleged to be a cover tape does not correspond to the cover tape of the invention, as is made clear by consideration of the specification of Endoh et al. Member 42 of Endoh et al is a sealing member that prevents the injected molding material from leaking out of the molding space 36a of mold 36, as described in column 5, lines 47-60; *member 42 is not attached to plate 14, but rather to the contacting surface of mold 36 that in turn contacts plate 14.* Thus, the sealing member 42 is a construction element of the

mold 36 and not a construction element of the panel assembly 10, as is apparent from the fact that panel assembly 10 does not include a sealing member 42.

Clearly, Endoh et al do not disclose or suggest a cover tape as is presently claimed, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Mozawa et al. The Office action alleges that Mozawa et al shows all the claimed limitations except for the tape having a thickness of about 0.03 to 1.0 mm. However, as noted above, Mozawa et al does not disclose or suggest a tape, and the element alleged to be a tape is actually a frit which is also shown in the present specification, and which is a separate element. Withdrawal of this rejection is accordingly requested.

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Endoh et al. The Office action alleges that Endoh et al does not show the tape having a width between about 1 to 5 centimeters and a thickness of about 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

However, as noted above, Endoh et al does not disclose a tape which is an element of the panel, but rather a sealing member which is an element of the molding apparatus.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 28 through 40 were previously presented in an Amendment filed on July 23, 2003, which was subsequent to the mailing date of the present Office action, and therefore these claims have not yet been examined. These claims depend directly or ultimately from Claim 26, and Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable.

New Claims 41 through 46 have now been added to the application and Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable over the cited art. Claim 41 recites a panel having an outer chamfered portion 8 having an outer peripheral edge

8a. The peripheral edge 25 of the sidewall portion 22 of molding body 21 substantially aligns with the outer peripheral edge 8a. These aspects of the invention are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and Applicants therefore submit that Claim 41 and Claims 42 through 46 which depend therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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